

LEGAL

Executive Registry
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell
Special Assistant to the President

As I indicated in my letter of 14 November, I am sending you additional information in response to your request of 9 November for comment on a UPI article concerning "underground bombers in Cuba." Attached is a CIA memo assessing this report.

The subject of secret storage of military supplies in Cuba will continue to be given the most careful study and analysis in the intelligence community.

(Signed) JOHN A. McCONE

John A. McCone
Director

Attachment

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H. Knoche:acc
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Note: - was also attached as background paper but was returned to OCI via their channels.

White House

~~SECRET~~

OCI-3799/62

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
16 November 1962

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Report on "Underground Hangars" in Cuba

1. We have no evidence to confirm the reported presence in Cuba of "secret, Russian-built underground hangars at 11 strategic air bases." There are two kinds of activity, however, which are under way and which could possibly have led to the reports on "underground hangars." One is the construction of covered aircraft revetments at four Cuban airfields. The other is the use of natural or man-made caves for the storage of military equipment.

2. The earth-covered aircraft revetments are located at the four Cuban airfields where MIG fighters are normally stationed: San Antonio de los Banos, Santa Clara, Camaguey, and Holguin.

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3. The use of caves for military storage is known and has been for some time. However, in no case has there been evidence that aircraft are being stored in the caves.

~~SECRET~~

Washington Evening Star Article of 6 November
On Missiles Hidden in Cuban Caves

1. We know that the Cubans have been using caves for storing conventional military weapons for many years, but there is no hard information linking the caves with the concealment of Soviet missiles in Cuba.

2. There have been, however, recent observations of Soviet trucks emerging from a cave near one of the four coastal defense cruise missile sites and construction activity has been noted in and around a number of caves.

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many trucks have been moving toward the interior of Cuba with heavy loads of sand for use in providing cover and camouflage for hidden military equipment.

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4.

has admitted that, while his organization had no firm evidence of the concealment of Soviet missiles in caves, he was pushing the story in order to "keep the Cuban pot boiling" before US public opinion.

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5. The Star story would imply that the caves had been prepared for missile storage some months ago at least.

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Cuban exiles are reported in the Star article to have talked with Cuban laborers who said they had been working on the preparation of the underground installations since February, 1960, i.e., some months before the Soviet Union and Cuba formally reestablished diplomatic relations.

6. While it is feasible for Soviet missiles to be hidden in Cuban caves, it appears unlikely--given what is known of the time factors involved in the Soviet missile shipments to Cuba--that a program to prepare underground sites for the missiles got under way before the Soviet ballistic missiles began arriving in Cuba.

7. It would also appear that if the Soviet Union and Cuba are intent on hiding missiles and associated equipment in Cuba, the use of the caves for this purpose is only one of several possibilities. The use of other storage sites, such as above-ground secured installations, would appear more likely.

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CPYRGHT

Exiles Tell of Missiles Hidden in Cuba Caves

Refugees Give Location of 7 Camouflaged Sites for Rockets

By JERRY O'LEARY, Jr.

Star Staff Writer

Soviet missiles in Cuba have been placed in seven caves and other underground installations in sufficient number to destroy half the American continent since the Kennedy-Khrushchev agreement to dismantle the open missile sites, a Cuban exile leader said today.

Fernando Garcia Chacon, 28, a refugee lawyer from Havana, said the underground sites are located in these heavily guarded areas of Cuba:

1. At Hershey in the province of Havana.
2. Near Victoria in the Valley of Yumuri, Matanzas Province.
3. In the hills of Penon, Camaguey Province.
4. In the Sierra de Cubitas, also in Camaguey Province.
5. In Las Villas Province, north of Cienfuegos.
6. At a location in Oriente Province.
7. In the hills of Pinar del Rio Province of Western Cuba.

Seen by Student

Two of the underground missile sites were reported to have been seen by a daring member of the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (Students Revolutionary Directorate), 23-year-old Luis Fernandez Rocha. Mr. Rocha, who returned to Miami in September after 4½

months working in the Cuban underground, has reported to the DRE that he approached to within 200 yards of the underground sites at the Valle de Yumuri and at Hershey.

Mr. Garcia is an agent of DRE whose job is to maintain liaison with other Latin countries. He is in Washington to report the DRE findings to Organization of American States representatives.

Heavily Camouflaged

An official Defense Department spokesman had no comment when queried about the refugee reports. He would not say whether the Government has any knowledge of the locations of the missiles dismantled by the Russians.

Mr. Garcia said the sites were located in hillsides, were heavily camouflaged to prevent

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Continued From Page A-1

aerial photography from detecting them and had metal doors and rail tracks leading inside. He said young Rocha, secretary of DRE, waited for two days until the metal doors were opened but was unable to see what was inside.

Other members of the militant anti-Castro exile group, including Angel Lozano, 28, have talked with laborers, who have been working since February, 1960, to prepare the underground installations.

The sites are both in natural caves, of which Cuba has many, and in man-made excavations in hillsides, according to the exile group.

Mr. Garcia said he has forwarded this information to "our contacts" in the United States Government as well as to the governments of all the Latin-American nations. He said he is unable to name the precise location of the underground missile sites, except for the two seen by Mr. Rocha.

(By "our contacts," Mr. Garcia presumably referred to the Central Intelligence Agency, although he declined to say so. The CIA, which masterminded the Bay of Pigs invasion, remains active among Cuban exile groups and is believed to provide financial support for some of them, including DRE.)

"New Soviet Swindle"

However, the student group, which has headquarters in Miami, issued this statement in Spanish:

"The free world is on the verge of being a victim of a new swindle by the Soviet Union. We have in our hands sufficient information that there exist on Cuban territory bases of missiles like the ones that have caused the present crisis and some of even greater range in subterranean installations that cannot be photographed by reconnaissance aircraft.

"The photo planes have localized on Cuban territory nearly 30 launching pads while our information assures us that there are many more missiles in Cuba. The Soviet Union can take out of Cuba and permit the inspection of

MISSILES

Exiles Say Russians Guard Hidden Sites

more than 50 missiles, but there are on Cuban territory sufficient missiles to destroy half the continent.

Big Enough for ICBMs

"Today (November 2) we have received urgent communications from Cuba telling us that some of these missiles have been seen taken to underground installations previously prepared.

Mr. Garcia said some of the underground installations are big enough for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles of a type not previously mentioned by the Defense Department as being in Cuba. U-2 and low-flying jets procured pictures in Cuba of from eight to 10 launching areas with four launchers each, and it was these pictures that precipitated the naval blockade of the island and the showdown with Premier Khrushchev.

The students, whose organization staged a machinegun raid by sea on a Havana area hotel in September, said there are more nearly 30,000 Russians in Cuba than the 5,000 the United States Government has asserted are there.

Guarded by Russians

The underground sites, according to Mr. Garcia, are strongly guarded by Russians, and no Cubans have been allowed to approach them since the sites were completed.

However, the DRE has had many reports from its operatives inside Cuba indicating the presence of mysterious weapons and many Russian troops.

"They drive through towns with huge, flatbed trucks carrying tarpaulins over the cargo," said Mr. Garcia, "and all the lights in the towns are put out by the authorities when the trucks are passing through."

The American reconnaissance planes pin-pointed mobile medium range ballistic missile sites at Guanajay and San Cristobal, in westernmost Cuba, and at Remedios and Sagua La Grande north of Cienfuegos. The Defense Department has confirmed that there is aerial photo evidence these mobile systems are being dismantled.

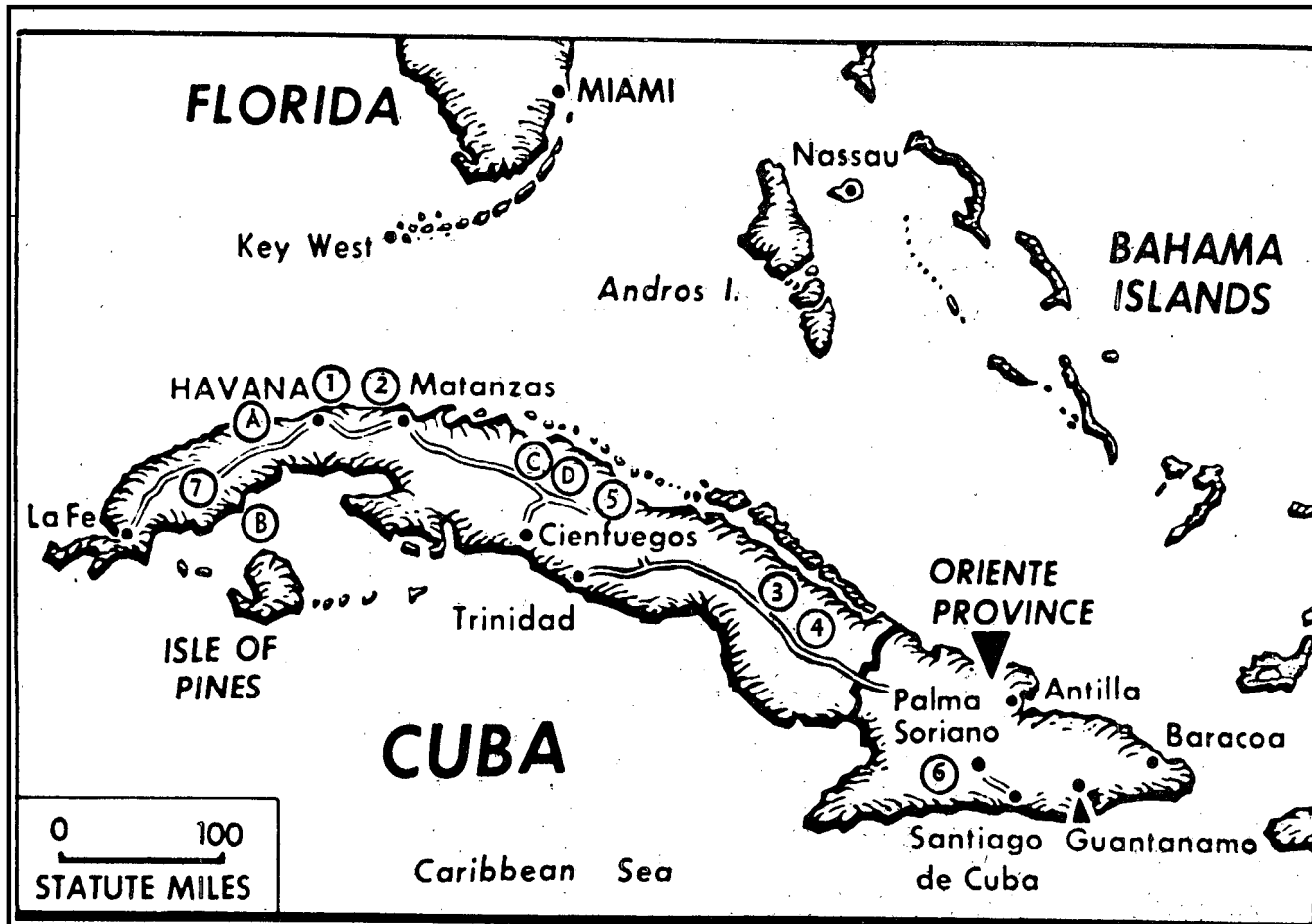
Mr. Khrushchev agreed to have the missile systems, and presumably their nuclear warheads, dismantled and crated for return to Russia. However, no information has been released by the Defense Department as to what has been done with the missile systems United States planes detected in Cuba.

American planes also detected intermediate range missile sites in the early stages of construction in Cuba. These sites are of the permanent type and were nowhere near ready to fire.

The mobile missile systems have a range of 1,000 nautical miles, well within reach of Washington in less than five minutes, and the intermediates have a range of more than 2,000 nautical miles, able to reach all the United States except Seattle. Both types of missile are threats to large areas of the Western Hemisphere, including the Panama Canal.

So far, there has been no ground inspection of the sites Mr. Khrushchev agreed to dismantle.

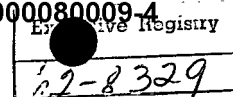
CPYRGHT



These are the places in Cuba where exiles said Soviet missiles have been placed in caves and underground sites to avoid detection by American planes. (1) Hershey, (2) Yumuri, (3) Penon, (4) Cubitas, (5) Las Villas, (6)

Oriente and (7) Pinar del Rio. The letters locate missile sites detected by United States planes and dismantled by the Russians at (A) Guanajay, (B) San Cristobal, (C) Remedios and (D) Sagua La Grande.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 9, 1962



ILLEGIB

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR McCONE

The President has asked me to call this newspaper article to your attention and he would like to have this situation looked into. Would you be good enough to submit a report to me for referral to him on this subject?

Many thanks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth O'Donnell".

Kenneth O'Donnell

Special Assistant to the President

they will be... take the bows... prevented war... "technicians" and... agents will have a sanc... from which to sub... other Latin American... countries; the United States... will be faced with the enor... mous cost of the military... build-up necessary to defend... the hemisphere, and the eco... nomic stagnation of Latin... America will continue.

WORTH MORE

"The elimination of the Castro - communist-controlled government of Cuba would be worth more to the Western Hemisphere than any benefits we might conceivably obtain from a \$20 billion expenditure under the Alliance for Progress.

"The President and his Administration obtained great political advantage thru this preliminary step, but I deeply believe that congressional leaders must quickly intervene to prevent the dangerous error or judgment in not following thru and completing the job for which we are so militarily well prepared."

This was the fragmentary report Mr. Sylvester gave on the...

- The Alapayevsk was intercepted by the destroyer Holder at 3:45 p. m. yesterday. The destroyer reported "no missile components were apparent."

- The Dvinogorsk was intercepted "early today" by the destroyer Blandy. The destroyer reported that the

President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev agreed to nearly two weeks ago.

The prospect is that a mutually satisfactory accommodation will be made, in order—at least from the Kennedy Administration's point of view—to further relax U. S. - USSR tension in the Caribbean, cool off Berlin, and improve chances for an early agreement on a nuclear test-ban treaty.

Underground Bombers in Cuba?

MIAMI, Nov. 9 (UPI) — Cuban refugee sources said last night Soviet MIG fighters and bombers are stored in secret Russian-built underground hangars — some with as many as 16 floors beneath the surface—at 11 strategic air bases in Cuba's six provinces.

The Student Revolutionary Directorate (DRE) issued a detailed report on the 11 bases which it said was brought here by couriers from Cuba.

The bases, all in northern Cuba, would put Soviet jets only minutes from Florida and other points along the U. S. coast.

In some cases, Russian engineers have enlarged and adapted caves to house both fighters and bombers, the DRE said.

Other underground hangars have been built in completely revamped military airports, it added.

Speed-Up

the Vatican in Rome today began debate on four chapters of liturgy at once in order to quicken the pace of its slow-moving Latin language discussions.

- A Yugoslav magazine accused Red China of "hypocrisy and lies" about Yugoslavia in order to divert attention from its own "vital inner problems." It was the strongest attack so far in the long ideological feud between Belgrade and Peiping.

- South Viet Nam has broken off relations with Laos because of the latter's recognition of communist North Viet Nam. The new move in the battle against the Reds' advance in Southeast Asia was announced in Saigon.

- A Nationalist Chinese freighter vanished mysteriously in the Formosa Strait last month. Discovery of an oil slick and bits of debris indicated the ship sank rather than having been hi-jacked by the Chinese Reds as first suspected, the Nationalists said in Taipei.

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Honorable John McCone
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

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